AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus for reducing the diameter of a stent [[(2)]], comprising radially inwardly moving segmental compressors [[(9, 9a)]] which act, at least indirectly, radially on [[the]] an outer surface of the stent [[(2)]] and are supported on a circumferential abutment ~~(3, 3a)~~, ~~characterized in that~~ flexible tensioning members [[(15) are]] provided between the ~~radially inwardly moving segmental~~ compressors [[(9, 9a)]] and the abutment [[(3, 3a)]] and actuatable by a pressure fluid in opposition to a resiliently elastic rebound force [[(13, 21)]].

2. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tensioning members [[(15)]] are formed by balloons or expandable tubes.

3. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compressors [[(9, 9a)]] have concave contact surfaces in a direction towards the circumferential abutment [[(3, 3a)]], and wherein the abutment [[(3, 3a)]] has concavely curved resistance surfaces [[(8, 8a)]], which are open towards [[its]] a center axis [[(7, 7a)]] of the abutment for the tensioning members [[(15)]].

4. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compressors [[(9, 9a)]] are disposed in at least two parallel planes [[(E, E1)]] and radially movable in each plane [[(E, E1)]] independently of [[the]] compressors [[(9, 9a)]] of a neighboring plane [[(E, E1)]].

5. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the abutment [[(3, 3a)]] extends across all planes [[(E, E1)]].

6. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each of the compressors [[(9, 9a)]] embraces a radially inwardly extending strut [[(5, 5a)]] of the ~~cylindrical~~ abutment [[(3, 3a)]] and is supported resiliently elastically upon the strut [[(5, 5a)]].

7. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compressors [[(9, 9a)]] are constructed as hollow circular segments, supported directly on the struts [[(5a)]] with their radially directed diverging legs [[(11a)]] ~~in diverging relationship~~ as well as projections [[(20)]], which extend toward one another adjacent to the abutment [[(3a)]], and supported with inwardly directed resilient tongues [[(21)]] on crossbars [[(17)]] of the struts [[(5a)]].

8. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compressors [[(9, 9a)]] are made of plastic and the abutment [[(3a)]] is made of a metal.

9. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compressors [[(9)]] are part of a metallic spring band [[(10)]] which extends in the form of a meander in circumferential direction and is respectively supported with trapezoidal zones [[(13)]] on two neighboring struts [[(5)]] of the abutment [[(3)]] made of a metal.

10. (New) Apparatus for reducing the diameter of a stent, comprising:

a compressor constructed to move radially inwardly to act, at least indirectly, radially upon an outer surface of a stent;

an abutment for support of the compressor;

a resiliently elastic rebound mechanism; and

a flexible tensioning member arranged between the abutment and the compressor and rendered operative by pressure fluid in opposition to a force applied by the rebound mechanism.

11. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the tensioning member is a balloon.

12. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the tensioning member is an expandable tube.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the abutment is defined by a center axis, the compressor having a concave contact surface in a direction towards the abutment and the abutment having a complementary concavely curved resistance surface, which is open towards the center axis, to define a space for receiving the tensioning member.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a plurality of said compressor disposed in parallel planes, wherein compressors in one plane are movable in radial direction independently of compressors in a neighboring plane.

15. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the compressors are positioned about a circle, with the abutment disposed in surrounding relationship to the compressors.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the abutment is sized to extend across all the planes.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the abutment has a cylindrical configuration.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the abutment has a radially inwardly extending strut, the compressor being constructed to embrace the strut and supported resiliently on the strut to provide the rebound mechanism.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the compressor is constructed as hollow circular segment having diverging radial legs, projections extending toward one another in an area adjacent to the abutment for direct support on the strut, and inwardly directed resilient tongues defining the rebound mechanism and supported on crossbars of the strut.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the compressor is made of plastic, and the abutment is made of metal.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the compressor is part of a metallic spring band which extends in the form of a meander in circumferential direction and is configured with trapezoidal areas for support on two neighboring struts of the abutment.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the abutment is made of a metal.